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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. Please cancel claims 7-13, 15-16 and 18-19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 21-26.

1.   (Original)   A multiple access communications system comprising:

a master station; and

a plurality of slave stations, each of which is connected to the master station using a multiple access controlled uplink and a broadcasting downlink and is connected to at least one terminal, wherein each of the slave stations comprises:

a transmission buffer for storing data received from a terminal as uplink transmission packets;

a condition memory storing a transmission condition for packet concatenation;

a packet concatenation section for concatenating a plurality of uplink transmission packets stored in the transmission buffer within a range satisfying the transmission condition, to produce a concatenated uplink transmission packet; and

a transmitter for transmitting the concatenated uplink transmission packet to the master station.

2.   (Original)   The multiple access communications system according to claim 1, wherein the packet concatenation section concatenates a plurality of uplink transmission packets within an upper limit to number of uplink transmission packets determined by the transmission condition.

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3.   (Original)   The multiple access communications system according to

claim 1, wherein the packet concatenation section concatenates a plurality of uplink

transmission packets within an upper limit to a total amount of uplink transmission

packets determined by the transmission condition.

4.   (Original)   The multiple access communications system according to

claim 1, wherein the transmission condition is previously set such that concatenation of

the plurality of uplink transmission packets is performed only when a total amount of

first additional information that would be added if the uplink transmission packets are

individually transmitted is not smaller than an amount of second additional information

that would be added if the concatenated uplink transmission packet is transmitted,

     wherein the packet concatenation section concatenates the plurality of uplink

transmission packets when the transmission condition is satisfied.

5.   (Original)   The multiple access communications system according to

claim 4, wherein the slave station further comprises:

     a table memory storing a table containing correspondence between a packet data

size and an amount of additional information to be added when individually

transmitted,

     wherein the table is used to determine whether the total amount of first

additional information is not smaller than the amount of second additional information.

6.   (Original)   The multiple access communications system according to

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claim 4, wherein the slave station further comprises:

a table memory storing a table containing correspondence between a packet data

size, a number of packets to be concatenated, an amount of additional information to be

added when concatenated, and

wherein the table is used to determine whether the total amount of first

additional information is not smaller than the amount of second additional information.

Claims 7-13.   (Canceled.)

14.   (Currently Amended) A data transceiver connected between a master

station and at least one terminal to transfer data between the master station and the at

least one terminal, comprising:

a transmission[[t]] buffer for storing data received from a terminal as uplink

transmission packets;

a condition memory storing a transmission condition for packet concatenation;

a packet concatenation section for concatenating a plurality of uplink

transmission packets stored in the transmission buffer within a range satisfying the

transmission condition, to produce a concatenated uplink transmission packet; and

a transmitter for transmitting the concatenated uplink transmission packet to the

master station.

Claims 15-16. (Canceled)

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17.   (Currently Amended) A method for transferring data between a master

station and at least one fixed speed data terminal, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing a transmission condition for packet concatenation;

storing data received from a terminal as uplink transmission packets;

concatenating a plurality of uplink transmission packets stored in the

transmission buffer within a range satisfying [[a]] the transmission condition for packet

concatenation, to produce a concatenated uplink transmission packet; and

transmitting the concatenated uplink transmission packet to the master station.

Claims 18-19. (Canceled.)

20.   (Currently Amended) A multiple access communication method

between a master station and a plurality of slave stations, each of which is connected to

the master station using an uplink and a downlink and is connected to at least one

terminal, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

at a slave station[[s]],

generating a plurality of data packets from data received from the at least one

terminal;

transmitting a transmission request packet containing a total amount of data

packets to be concatenated to the master station;

at the master station,

in response to the transmission request packet, transmitting a transmission

permission packet containing a total amount of data packets permitted to be

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concatenated to the slave station;

     at the slave station,

     concatenating a plurality of uplink transmission data packets within a

predetermined range to produce a concatenated uplink transmission data packet; and

     transmitting the concatenated uplink transmission data packet to the master

station.

     21.   (New) An apparatus for transferring data between a master station and

at least one fixed speed data terminal, comprising:

     storing means for storing a transmission condition for packet concatenation and

for storing received data from a terminal as uplink transmission packets;

     concatenating means for concatenating a plurality of uplink transmission

packets stored in the transmission buffer within a range satisfying the transmission

condition for packet concatenation, to produce a concatenated uplink transmission

packet; and

     transmitting means for transmitting the concatenated uplink transmission packet

to the master station.

     22.   (New) A method for controlling a multiple access communications

system including a master station and a plurality of slave stations each of which is

connected to said master station using a multiple access controlled uplink and a

broadcasting downlink, said method comprising:

     storing data in a transmission buffer received from a terminal as uplink

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transmission packets;

storing a transmission condition for packet concatenation in a condition

memory;

concatenating, a plurality of uplink transmission packets stored in said

transmission buffer within a range satisfying said transmission condition;

producing a concatenated uplink transmission packet based on said

concatenating; and

transmitting said concatenated uplink transmission packet to said master station.

23.   (New) A method for controlling a data transceiver connected between a

master station and at least one terminal to transfer data between the master station and

the at least one terminal, said method comprising:

storing data in a transmission buffer received from a terminal as uplink

transmission packets;

storing a transmission condition for packet concatenation in a condition

memory;

concatenating a plurality of uplink transmission packets stored in the

transmission buffer within a range satisfying the transmission condition:

producing a concatenated uplink transmission packet based on said

concatenating; and

transmitting said concatenated uplink transmission packet to said master station.

24.   (New) A multiple access communication method between a master

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station and a plurality of slave stations, each of which is connected to the master station

using an uplink and a downlink and is connected to at least one terminal, comprising:

at a slave station

generating a plurality of data packets from data received from the at least one

terminal;

transmitting a transmission request packet containing a total amount of data

packets to be concatenated to a master station;

concatenating a plurality of uplink transmission data packets within a

predetermined range to produce a concatenated uplink transmission data packet; and

transmitting the concatenated uplink transmission data packet to the master

station.

25.   (New) The multiple access communication method of claim 24,

comprising:

at the master station,

in response to the transmission request packet, transmitting a transmission permission

packet containing a total amount of data packets permitted to be concatenated to the slave

station.

26.   (New) The method for transferring data according to claim 17, wherein said

transmission condition for packet concatenation is stored in a dedicated memory.